for disaster response. Most of these Ministries/Departments have already developed such plans. The State Govts, and the Union Territory Administrations have also advised to enter into pre-centracts or pre-agreements with suppliers for various relief supplies to avoid loss of time in the procurement of these items in the event of a disaster.

Fire incidents in Delhi

3029. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of incidents of huge market place fires like the recent one in Ramakrishna Puram are occurring in the NCT of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the steps being taken by Government to avoid such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 61 incidents of fire in shops in Delhi were reported during the period from 1st April, 2004 to 31st March, 2005. Out of these, seven incidents were of medium intensity while 54 incidents were of minor nature.

(c) In so far as high rise buildings are concerned, necessary steps to enforce fire security as provided for under the Fire Prevention and fire Safety Act and Rules framed thereunder are being taken by Delhi Fire Service. In case of low rise mercantile buildings of height below 15 meters, which are not covered under the Delhi Free Prevention laws and the Delhi Buildings Bye laws, 1983, fire fighting vehicles are kept on full alert to respond to contingencies at short notice.

Dialogue with Nepal

†3030. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indo-Nepal dialogue at Home Secretary level was held recently;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of such dialogue; and

(c) the decisions taken after the dialogue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. During the talks both sides discussed modalities for strengthening cooperation in combating activities of terrorists, criminals and other hostile elements engaged in activities prejudicial to the security of India and Nepal and to further intensify cooperation through regular meetings between authorities of adjoining border districts etc. Both sides also finalized and initialed the text of the Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and the Extradition Treaty between India and Nepal.

2. Implementation of decisions taken during the talks is a continuing process.

Loopholes in the security of Tihar Jail

†3031. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sher Singh Rana, the prime accused in Phoolan Devi murder case in an interview on a TV channel has enumerated a number of loopholes in Tihar prison;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have looked into these loopholes and taken measures to plug them;

(d) whether it is a fact that Government have failed to arrest the prime accused of Phoolan Devi murder case despite its all out efforts; and

(e) if so, the concrete action proposed to be taken by Government to nab him immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) No such interview given by the accused in Phoolan Devi murder case has come to the notice of the Government. However, the security arrangements in Tihar Jails are regularly reviewed. Following the escape of the accused of Phoolan Devi murder case, all aspects of security in Tihar Jails were reviewed and necessary steps have

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.